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Statistics Relative to Nova Scotia in 1851. By EDWARD CHESHIRE,
Assistant Secretary.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, at Hull,
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PUBLIC attention having been directed to the North American fisheries of late, I have thought it might not be uninteresting to lay before this Section a short sketch of Nova Scotia, compiled chiefly from the writings of McCulloch, into which has been introduced some recent statistics relating to that province, extracted from a document received from the Colonial Office, entitled "Statistics of each County of the Province of Nova Scotia, exhibiting a view of the Population, Pursuits, Industry, and Resources of the country within each County of the Province; taken in 1851, by D. McCulloch, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Statistics."*

Nova Scotia was discovered by John Cabot in 1497. The French first settled in it, and called it Acadia; subsequently it fell under the English, having been granted by James I. to Sir W. Alexander in 1627, and was named Nova Scotia. In 1632 it was restored to France by the treaty of St. Germain, but it subsequently several times changed masters, and was not finally established in the quiet possession of the British till 1758. At the peace of 1763 the boundaries of this colony were so defined as to include New Brunswick and Cape Breton, but in 1784 the former was made a separate government. Halifax is its capital, and the seat of government.

The colony consists of an oblong-shaped peninsula, between latitude 43° and 46° north, and longitude 61° and 67° west, connected with New Brunswick by a low sandy isthmus, only fourteen miles across, and separated from Cape Breton by the narrow strait called the Gut of Canso. It is about 300 miles in length, and of very various breadth. Area about 15,620 square miles, one-fifth portion of which consists of lakes, rivers, and salt-water inlets. The coast line is extremely irregular, forming numerous capes and bays. Rocks and islands fringe its shores, and the aspect of the entire Atlantic coast is extremely picturesque. Deep water is found, almost without exception, close to the rocks and islands; and the peninsula presents, towards the Bay of Fundy, bold and almost precipitous cliffs. The interior is intersected, in almost every direction, by streams, rivers, and lakes, but mostly of an inferior size. The peninsula has no elevation deserving the name of mountain, its highest point not rising more than 700 feet above the sea. The east end of the peninsula possesses a deep rich soil. The barren tracts are chiefly of sand or clay, and contain extensive coal-fields. Iron is abundantly interspersed among the coal strata, and varieties of lead and copper ore are met with, though in smaller quantities.

The climate of Nova Scotia, in respect to temperature, bears a general resemblance to that of Lower Canada, and is subject to the same great and sudden variations. The difference of temperature

* This document, being purely statistical, could not be read in its original state.

within twenty-four hours often exceeds 50°. These changes, however, are less frequent and extreme in the interior. The severe weather usually sets in about the middle of December. The snow storms are very heavy, some having been known to continue for sixty or seventy hours without intermission. The severity of the weather ends late in March, when chill, damp east and north-east winds succeed, caused by the breaking-up, and passage along the coast, of vast fields of ice, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Hence the most disagreeable season in this country is from the vernal equinox to the end of April. A warm summer occupies nearly three months, dating from the early part of June, and, for the most part, is remarkable for a continuance of calm and serene weather. Autumn, the most beautiful season of the year, may vie with that of any other country; and in November there are days which, for beauty, warmth, and mildness, are equal to the loveliest mornings of an English May. Westerly and north-west winds are most prevalent; and the fine days bear to the wet days a proportion of 8 to 5. The extreme variations of temperature common in this country have not that injurious influence on health which one might naturally expect. Rheumatic and inflammatory complaints are more prevalent than any other, and a considerable annual mortality occurs from pulmonary consumption. Intermittent fevers, however, so common in Canada and the United States, are here wholly unknown; typhus occurs only in a mitigated form; and the ravages of the yellow fever have never been felt. Nova Scotia may, therefore, on the whole, be considered a healthy country. Its inhabitants often live to extreme age, many attaining ninety and even one hundred years.

The subjoined table gives the census of the province in 1851, and exhibits the sex and age of the population:—

TABLE I.
Census of the Province of Nova Scotia in 1851.

Sex.	Age.						Total.
	Under 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	Above 50.	
Males	44,000	33,791	20,277	14,615	10,616	14,378	137,677
Females	43,452	33,444	22,385	14,665	10,271	14,223	138,440
Total....	87,452	67,235	42,662	29,280	20,887	28,601	276,117

The foregoing table indicates a remarkable equality between the sexes, except at the ages between 20 and 30, at which period the females preponderate over the males by rather more than 10 per cent. The great exertions of men at these ages to gain a livelihood, and to secure a settlement in life, added to the increased risk they incur by going out into the world, may possibly account for their diminished numbers at this period of life.

The following table shows the condition or state of the population:—

TABLE II.
Condition of the People.

Males.		Females.	
Married	39,351	Married	39,351
Widowers	2,238	Widows	5,916
Bachelors	52,088	Spinsters	49,721
Boys (under 10)	44,000	Girls (under 10)	43,452
Total	137,677	Total	138,440

The excess of widows over widowers, 3,678, or 160 per cent., probably arises in part from the risks incurred by the men, 10,000 in number, engaged in the fisheries.

Bachelors, it will be seen, exceed the spinsters by 2,367; consequently, spinsters are at a premium.

The births, deaths, and marriages, in 1851, were as follows: births, 8,120; deaths, 2,802; marriages, 1,710. The great preponderance of births over deaths, no less than 5,318, or 190 per cent., is a striking indication of the thriving condition of the colony.

The annexed table gives the profession, occupation, or calling of the inhabitants:—

TABLE III.
Occupation, Pursuit, or Calling of a large portion of the Inhabitants.

Clergymen	288	Farmers	31,604
Lawyers	143	Engaged in the fisheries.....	9,927
Doctors.....	145	Registered seamen	1,413
Merchants and traders	2,415	Employed at sea	3,961
Employed in manufactories....	3,200	Engaged in lumbering	1,254
Mechanics	8,895		

It would appear, by this table, that the spiritual wants of the colony are well provided for, there being one clergyman to every thousand of the population; but a lawyer and a doctor only to every *two* thousand persons. The farmers comprise one-ninth of the entire population.

The subjoined table exhibits the number of afflicted persons in the colony:—

TABLE IV.
Blind, Deaf and Dumb, Idiots, and Lunatics.

	Blind.	Deaf and Dumb.	Idiots.	Lunatics.	Total.
Males.....	74	132	176	76	458
Females	62	98	123	90	373
Total	136	230	299	166	831

There is little to remark upon in the above table, except that deafness and dumbness is 35 per cent. more prevalent among males than females, and idiocy 43 per cent.

The next table gives the number of Indians and Coloured persons in the province:—

TABLE V.
Indians and Coloured Persons.

	Indians.	Coloured Persons.	Total.
Males	524	2,321	2,845
Females	532	2,587	3,119
Total	1,056	4,908	5,964

Agriculture.—Nova Scotia is estimated to comprise somewhat more than 5,000,000 acres of land available for tillage; the proportion of land under cultivation at present being to the wilderness as 1 to 26. The first large public grants of land appear to have been made in 1760, and in less than thirteen years from that time nearly 8,000,000 acres were granted to individuals or companies in England, in lots ranging from 20,000 to 150,000 acres. These grants contained conditions of improvement, but the grantees, after having incurred some expense in endeavouring to settle their extensive properties, abandoned the land to its few inhabitants, or suffered it to remain absolutely waste. Efforts made to escheat these lands to the crown were repeatedly baffled by the influence of the absentee proprietors, and thus the province was, for a time, effectually closed against immigration either from England or the neighbouring colonies. Licensed occupiers, however, and squatters, have improved some portions of these tracts; and to them must be ascribed the progress made by the colony in population and agriculture. In regard to improved lands, the number of acres of dyked land, in 1851, was 40,012, and of other improved lands 799,310. The system of selling in lots, not exceeding 1,000 acres, was introduced in 1827; and the average price of unimproved land, in 1839, amounted to 2s. 3d. an acre. The quantity of land ungranted in Nova Scotia, in 1838, was estimated at about 2,500,000 acres, but of these not above one-eighth part was fit for tillage. The country, as respects the quantity of land and the state of agriculture, may be divided into three distinct sections: in the first division the soil is rich and productive; in the second it is extremely rocky, but good crops of wheat and grain are obtained in some places; and in the third the land is for the most part poor, and susceptible of little or no improvement. The crops usually cultivated are wheat, oats, and barley, with smaller quantities of peas, buckwheat, rye, &c. Potatoes are universally cultivated, and form the staple article of food throughout the province; turnips are also raised in large quantities.

The following table shows the annual yield of the respective crops:—

TABLE VI.
Crops, Grain, and otherwise.

Wheat	297,157 bushels	Peas and beans.....	21,638 bushels
Barley	196,097 „	Grass seeds	3,686 „
Rye	61,438 „	Potatoes	1,986,789 „
Oats	1,384,437 „	Turnips.....	467,127 „
Buck-wheat	170,301 „	Other roots	32,325 „
Indian corn	37,475 „	Hay	287,937 tons

Hired labour is difficult to procure, and too expensive to allow of its adoption, except by the more wealthy. Labourers are usually hired during the six months of summer, for which they receive from 15*l.* to 18*l.*, with board and lodging.

The products of the dairy are, butter 3,613,890 lbs.; and cheese, 652,069 lbs.

TABLE VII.
Live Stock.

Horses	28,789	Sheep	282,180
Neat cattle	156,857	Swine	51,533
Milch cows	83,856		

The forests of Nova Scotia abound with good timber: pine and birch, oak, beech, ash, and maple, are the most common trees; and many of the inhabitants have, for years, been supported by the timber trade. The exports of timber in 1837 were valued at 143,736*l.* The principal wild animals of the province are the moose-deer, cariboo, bear, loup-cervier, fox, martin, otter, mink, and squirrel, but the number of animals has, of late, greatly decreased. The rivers abound with varieties of fresh-water fish, besides which, cod, herrings, mackerel, haubert, and other kinds of sea-fish are found in the deep bays of the coast. The inhabitants share in the whale, seal, and cod fisheries; and this branch of industry has for some years been on the increase. The fish of all sorts, chiefly cod, exported in 1837, was valued at 181,960*l.*, besides which the exports of train-oil were estimated at 20,280*l.*

The subjoined table, relating to the fisheries, will be read with interest at the present time:—

TABLE VIII.
Fisheries in 1851.

Vessels employed	812	Quantity of fish oil	189,250*
Tonnage	43,333	Value of ditto in £.....	17,754
Men	3,681	Quantity of dry fish cured	196,434*
Boats employed.....	5,161	Salmon in barrels	1,669
Men	6,713	Shad	3,536
Quantity of smoked herrings	15,409*	Mackerel.....	100,047
Value of ditto in £	217,270	Herrings.....	53,200
Nets and seines.....	30,154	Alewives	5,343

* In the returns there is nothing to show what these numbers indicate.

An important branch of employment in Nova Scotia is mining. Coal and iron are abundant, as has been before stated. The total value of the coal produced in Nova Scotia, in 1839, amounted to 25,000*l*. Gypsum abounds in the west districts, and is highly prized in the United States as manure; the quantity exported thither from Nova Scotia, in 1837, amounted to 22,326 tons, valued at 6,738*l*.

The annexed table gives the present yield of the mines, &c. :—

TABLE IX.
Coals, Lime, Bricks, and Gypsum.

Coal raised, in chaldrons	114,992	Gypsum quarried, in tons	79,795
Baskets of lime burnt	28,603	Value of ditto in £.....	10,498
Value of ditto in £	4,433	Grindstones quarried, in tons....	37,540
Bricks made	2,845,400	Value of ditto in £.....	5,857
Value of ditto in £	3,211		

The two following tables relate to the manufactures of the colony, by which it will be seen that hand-looms are very numerous, and that grist and saw-mills and tanneries abound :—

TABLE X.
Manufactures.

Mills, Factories, &c.	Number.	Value in £.	Hands Employed.
Saw mills.....	1,153	89,869	1,786
Grist mills	398	72,649	437
Steam mills or factories	10
Tanneries	237	26,762	374
Foundries	9	12,900	138
Weaving and carding establish- ments.....	81	11,690	119
Hand looms.....	11,096	24,486
Breweries and distilleries	17	6,032	42
Other factories	131	14,382	185

Manufactories, continued.

Iron smelted..... in tons	400	Agricultural implements, value}	16,640
Value of ditto	in £ 4,635	in £	
Value of castings	do. 3,486	Chairs and cabinet ware.... do.	11,155
Flannel..... in yds.	219,352	Carriages..... do.	9,491
Fulled cloth	do. 119,698	Other wooden ware..... do.	19,233
Cloth not fulled	do. 790,104	Boots and shoes	do. 73,654
Malt liquor	ingalls. 78,076	Leather	do. 52,625
Distilled liquor.....	do. 11,900	Soap	do. 28,277
Maple sugar..... in lbs.	110,441	Candles	do. 21,210

The position of Nova Scotia gives it great commercial advantages; and its trade, especially with the United States, has been for some years steadily on the increase. The exports, chiefly to Canada, the United States, and Great Britain, consist of fish and fish-oil, timber, coals, &c.; the whole being valued, in 1837, at 478,461*l*. The im-

ports, during the same year, comprised corn and flour, British manufactures, colonial produce, &c., and were valued at 790,765*l*. The trade principally centres in Halifax, the capital.

Subjoined is a table showing the number of ships, and their tonnage, which entered and left the ports of Nova Scotia in 1839:—

TABLE XI.

Shipping.

Countries.	Entered Inwards.		Cleared Outwards.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
Great Britain.....	97	27,886	102	29,739
British Colonies	2,517	149,631	2,815	179,712
United States	1,211	136,580	1,266	139,427
Foreign	181	18,039	49	5,299
Total	4,006	332,136	4,232	354,177

The number of vessels built in 1851 was 486, (tonnage 57,776,) and the number of boats 2,654. The means of internal communication have been much improved within the last few years, and a water communication has been effected between Halifax and Windsor; but the want of such communication is severely felt in the interior settlements.

The constitution of Nova Scotia is a representative provincial government. The Lieutenant-Governor, who is subordinate to the Governor-General of British North America, is commander within the province; and the supreme civil as well as military authority under him, is a council of twelve members, of whom the bishop and chief justice are members *ex officio*, and the rest appointed by the Crown. The legislative assembly consists of a body of forty-one members, elected by 40*s*. freeholders. It is elected, like the British House of Commons, for seven years, but may be prorogued or dissolved by the Lieutenant-Governor. It meets every year, and all money bills must originate in this assembly; other bills require the consent of the Governor and council before they become law. For the purposes of election, Nova Scotia is divided into ten counties. The counties have two members each, and the other representatives are returned by the towns. Justice is administered by a Court of Queen's Bench, sitting at Halifax, and by district courts in the different counties. The common and statute law of England are in force. The laws are, on the whole, considered judicious, and, as far as they go, calculated to promote the prosperity of the colony, but the harmony of society is too often broken by a love of litigation.

The revenue, amounting to upwards of 60,000*l*., is chiefly raised by duties of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem* on property generally. Taxation is extremely light; the cost of defence being defrayed by Great Britain, and the inhabitants being burdened only with the civil government and local improvements. The military force consists of three regiments of the line, the expense of whose maintenance in England is estimated at about 120,000*l*. a-year.

The Church of England is the established religion, and in 1838 the

colony was divided into thirty-two parishes, each of which had a rector salaried by the Crown, or by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Nova Scotia was made a bishopric in 1787, the diocese extending over New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island, Newfoundland, and the Bermudas.

The subjoined table exhibits the various religious denominations into which the inhabitants of the province were divided in 1851:—

TABLE XII.
Religious Denominations.

Church of England.....	36,482	Methodists	23,596
Roman Catholics	69,634	Congregationalists	2,639
Kirk of Scotland.....	18,867	Universalists	580
Presbyterian Church of Nova } Scotia	28,767	Lutherans	4,087
Free Church	25,280	Sandinianians	101
Baptists	42,243	Quakers	188
		Other Denominations.....	3,791

It will be observed that one-eighth only of the population follow the persuasion of the established Church of the colony; that one-fourth are Roman Catholics; the remaining five-eighths of the population being comprised of upwards of ten other religious denominations, to each of which a complete toleration is granted. The number of churches is 567, or about 1 to every 500 persons. It has before been shown that each clergyman has a charge of 1,000 persons, consequently each has to serve two churches. The number of schools is 1,096, and of scholars 31,354. The principal college devoted to education is Windsor College, which is partly supported by the provincial government and partly by subscription.

The annexed table gives the number of houses and buildings in the colony, distinguishing the inhabited from the uninhabited; also the number of families, &c.

TABLE XIII.
Houses, Buildings, &c.

Inhabited houses.....	41,455	Paupers	1,072
Families	45,541	Rate payers	38,388
Uninhabited houses	2,028	Probable value of real es- } tate in £	8,050,923
Houses building	2,347		
Stores, barns, and outhouses....	52,758		

The inhabited houses give one to every seven of the population: a number a little in excess of that which obtains in England and Wales, where there are only 5·5 persons to a house.